

# the warhol:

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## **THE WARHOL PRESENTS FIRST EVER RETROSPECTIVE OF PAPARAZZI PHOTOGRAPHER RON GALELLA**

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(Pittsburgh, PA), March 18, 2002. . . The Andy Warhol Museum will present *Off Guard: The Photographs of Ron Galella*, June 23, 2002 through September 1, 2002—the first retrospective to be mounted of the infamous paparazzi photographer’s work. The exhibition, which will be displayed on the Museum’s sixth floor, will include approximately 300, 8” x 10” images from Ron Galella’s career as a celebrity photographer and will provide an opportunity to explore and reassess his work in light of the more recent backlash against the paparazzi.

Ron Galella has been photographing celebrities for more than 30 years, capturing the essence of fame from the 1960s onward. He is, arguably, America’s original and most controversial paparazzi photographer. Endlessly pursuing his subjects (Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, his favorite subject, took legal action against him) and going to great lengths to capture celebrities off guard, he has provided a steady stream of immediate and candid images for the pages of hundreds of publications around the world including *Life*, *The New York Times*, *People*, *The Star* and *Vanity Fair*. According to Galella, “My passion is to show the world the stars it celebrates in the natural and spontaneous moods that only paparazzo photo journalism can capture. I am interested in printing onto film what is real.”

“Galella’s photographs of celebrities straddle the realms of popular photography and popular history, contemporary photography and contemporary portraiture,” says Margery King, curator for the retrospective and associate curator at The Warhol.

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Ron Galella was born in the Bronx, New York in 1931 and graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena with a degree in professional arts. He was a ground and aerial photographer for the United States Air Force during the Korean War before becoming a freelance and magazine photographer in 1955. Armed with a camera and an opportunist spirit, he roamed New York, Hollywood and Las Vegas throughout the 60's, 70's and early 80's in search of the perfect celebrity shot. In turn, Galella was among the first American photographers to cross the guarded line between the stars and the public. *Off Guard: The Photographs of Ron Galella* will provide fertile ground for voyeurism, critical reappraisal, and a reassessment of Galella in light of the more recent backlash against paparazzi photographers.

The exhibition coincides with a new book, *The Photographs of Ron Galella*, (\$75 hardbound, 258 pages, 10" x 14") to be published by Greybull Press in April 2002. The book will be available in The Warhol Store during the run of the exhibition. *Off Guard: The Photographs of Ron Galella* will run concurrently with another exhibition, *The LP Show*, organized by Exit Art, New York, on view June 23, 2002 through August 18, 2002.

Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the place of Andy Warhol's birth, The Warhol is one of the most comprehensive single-artist museums in the world. The Andy Warhol Museum is one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Additional information about The Warhol is available at [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

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**Phone: 412.237.8300**

**Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, and Sun 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Fri 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

**Mon closed**

**Good Fridays - Every Fri, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.**

**Admission: Members - free, Adults - \$8,**

**Sr. Citizens -\$7, Children/Students - \$4,**

**The Warhol Store/The Warhol Café - free**